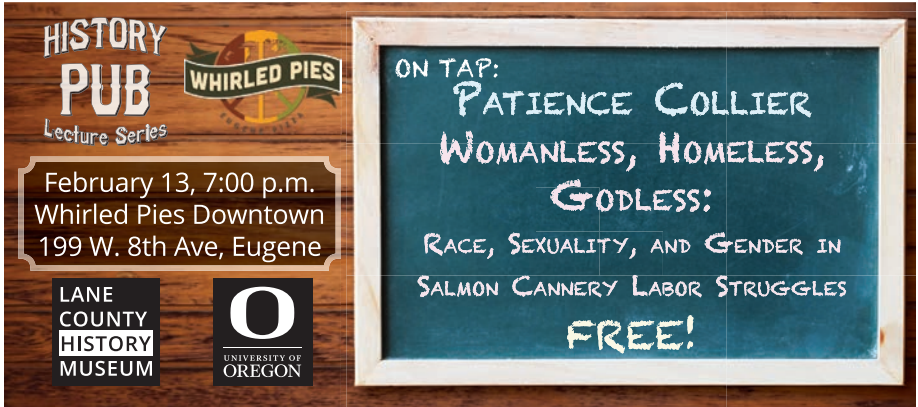




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\$30/3 MOS. \$50/6 MOS. \$90/12 MOS. PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.  
Eugene Weekly is published every Thursday by What's Happening Inc.  
Five free copies maximum per person from newsrack.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO EUGENE WEEKLY,  
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# letters

## DEFAZIO GAVE US A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

Your Jan. 19 profile of recently retired U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio was very good — but, let's face it, no single newspaper tribute to Peter would be able to encapsulate his lifetime of service to the public. It would take a book.

I had the very good fortune to share a cubicle with DeFazio in the Longworth House Office Building when we both worked for Rep. Jim Weaver. Everyone who worked with DeFazio in those days knew he was destined for greatness. Over the next 40 years, he did not disappoint.

DeFazio has stood up to the right wing and the naysayers for years. He's urged peace in foreign affairs. He's worked for environmental rights, equal rights and worker rights. He's stood up to Wall Street hedge fund titans. For all of us in his district, we know he's worked hard to be accessible, represent the people here and attend to their needs.

We will miss you, Peter. A job well done!

C. Peter Sorenson  
Eugene

## SEXISM IS ALIVE AND WELL IN PAT FARR'S CHAIRMANSHIP

Four concerned citizens provided in-person public comment in front of the Jan. 24 Lane County Board of Commissioners to express disapproval at the way 2022's board chair, Pat Farr, delivered himself an extra year in leadership instead of handing the gavel to the vice chair, as is the custom. These comments focused on how Chair Farr pulled a fast one two weeks earlier at the first meeting of 2023, with the help of the two new commissioners from West Lane and Springfield, Ryan Ceniga and David Loveall, which left Farr in charge for another year with "continuity" and

"momentum" as dubious justification.

When called out for this brazen, sexist stunt, each man in turn said they were offended and shared that they loved and respected the women in their lives, naming wives and daughters, implying that they therefore couldn't possibly be sexist. Their defense of the unvarnished power grab was to tout their personal relationships with the women, but they missed entirely the fact of structural sexism and the harms it causes.

What is offensive is their deliberate indifference, as if to wave away this betrayal of public trust by saying, "Some of my best friends are women." Sadly, unearned gender-based privilege is alive and well, and there's still much work to be done to dismantle it.

Debra E. McGee  
Eugene

## HOYLE JOINS THE ANTI-VAXXERS?

In one of her first votes as a member of the House of Representatives, Rep. Val Hoyle voted with Republicans on Jan. 31 in favor of HR 497, the "Freedom for Health Care Workers Act." This act has just one provision, which repeals the current federal rule requiring all workers at health care facilities that receive federal funds to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Hoyle was one of just seven Democrats (along with OR-6's new representative, Andrea Salinas) to support this Republican anti-vaccine bill.

This bill is anti-science and an insult to the health care workers who have been on the front lines of the pandemic. Further, Oregonians deserve to know that, when they walk into a doctor's office or hospital, the health care professionals treating them are not conspiracy theorists. I supported Hoyle in 2022 to carry on Peter DeFazio's legacy of

common-sense leadership in Washington, not to be a supporter of Republican's COVID denial and other attacks on science. Eugene and Corvallis are the center of Oregon's scientific community and deserve better from their representatives. I sincerely hope that Hoyle will take steps going forward to vote with fellow Democrats and vote with the facts.

Quintin Kreth  
Junction City

## BRING RENTAL APPLICATION FEES UNDER CONTROL

Recently, a judge ruled that a \$10 cap on applications for housing is pre-empted by state law. We, the people, are seeking to overturn this ruling.

In 2021, my roommates and I applied to more than a dozen houses before we got approved for one, because of the long list of other applicants on a first-come, first-served basis, even having one good applicant before us left us in the dark before receiving a resounding "no" time and time again.

Sometimes, an individual application (every adult in the home) is \$100 or more, meaning those who are desperate will pay that only to have to continue their search for housing and continue to pay for applications with no assurance that they will be the one renting that home. I say desperate and not "able" because, when one is verging on the edge of homelessness, you do anything you can to stay above the water, even if it's not feasible for you to pay those fees. This could be their budgeted food money for the month, their gas money or even money meant for a child's clothing.

We are hurting our more vulnerable citizens by allowing an establishment to take that much money from them just for an application to a house that they

may not be rented to for whatever reason. I hope that this letter helps those who are in doubt see that a rental cap of \$10 is not only reasonable, but necessary.

Scar Farriss  
Eugene

## SUPPORT WOMEN'S FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN IRAN

On Sept. 16, Mahsa Amini, a young Kurdish-Iranian woman who was visiting relatives in Tehran, was arrested. Her crime? A few strands of her hair were showing from under her scarf. She was subsequently taken into custody, where she was repeatedly beaten, her head was struck to the wall several times. She ended up in coma and died a few days later.

Her death prompted widespread demonstrations all over Iran. People came out chanting "Woman, life, freedom," and demanding regime change, the establishment of democracy and a secular government. The Islamic Republic has responded brutally to the protests that are continuing.

More than 20,000 people have been jailed, tortured and starved since then. Seven hundred people have been shot dead, including more than 70 children. Several people have been publicly executed since September.

People of Iran are showing unprecedented courage in the face of repression and brutality, and as Americans we have a moral duty to help them.

A bipartisan bill called the Mahsa Act (HR 589) has been re-introduced in the U.S. House. The Iranian-American community is asking fellow Americans to call their representatives and demand support for the Mahsa Act, which will put sanctions on the leaders of the Islamic Republic who are committing gross human rights violations in Iran.

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Fellow freedom-loving Americans, we need your help to free Iranians from tyranny and help secure a better world for Ukraine, Israel, Yemen and the rest of the world by encouraging your representative to support the Mahsa Act.

Rebecca DesPrez  
Springfield

## WE NEED MORE FEDERAL DOLLARS TO HELP THE HOMELESS

The best way to count homeless Americans is to open a government office to help them. Offering them a chance to come into contact, you can find them. Then rent money is needed.

Ignoring this national crisis, choosing not to help Americans who have no shelter, remains cruel. Just now, the bitter cold is life threatening. All America's human protective services are failing without shelter. Children, families, dis-

abled persons, the elderly and those with tragic bad luck are no longer protected by designated government services if they have no shelter.

Police have no helping place to take the homeless. The homeless are not safe. They are the most preyed upon citizens in our community. Yet, there is no one else to call. Acting out mentally ill persons who are homeless are a major burden to police, and yet the police no longer have back-up with the mental health system. Mental health has no shelter most of the time.

In Eugene, CAHOOTS has no place to take the homeless for shelter or security. Our new governor, Tina Kotek, calls homelessness a crisis. And it is too big a crisis for states to handle without massive federal help.

It is way past time for federal help.

Jerry Smith, MSW  
Retired volunteer in Eugene

## AI IS A USEFUL TOOL

Artificial Intelligence applications have made incredible advances this year. Text to image, content writing generators, and ChatGPT have become usable by the average person, producing an explosion of huwuman-directed creativity. Hundreds of millions of images, libraries and university theses have been gleaned from the internet to teach algorithms how to write, make images and even answer questions requested using text descriptions of desired content. This distillation of huwuman creativity has identified certain tendencies: nakedness is popular, and the writing can produce racist, ideological material.

AI products are uniquely huwumen biproducts because we direct all queries. These creative tools, like calculators or typewriters, generate what we request. People who have difficulties writing can use writing generators to communicate

ideas that otherwise would have been impossible. As a digital artist, AI is an opportunity to express my wonder of this universe that I could never draw or paint. And the mistakes, the happy accidents that AI produces, are often brilliant and reflect our ASSumptions about art.

Children in school will continue to learn math, regardless of the calculator, reading, and, perhaps, more emphasis on physical writing to prevent cheating. But now they have access to the perspective of an algorithm made with all academic knowledge at their fingertips. Our responsibility is to make adjustments to our behavior utilizing this progress, this resynthesized information, in a non-toxic, sustainable, peaceful and kind manner.

The use of "huwuman" references the e.e. cummings poem using "manunkind."

Tanna Giroux  
Eugene

## Local and Vocal

VIEWPOINT BY ALICIA BALFREY

# Eugene's Anti-Asian Problem

STRUCTURAL RACISM AND REPRESENTATION IN THIS CITY

This city touts itself as a progressive-minded, inclusive community, but if you pay attention, this can show up as white, elitist, NIMBY liberalism. Eugene is overwhelmingly white, making up 81.1 percent of the population, according to recent census data; so how can we pretend to call ourselves diverse or inclusive?

Sure, visitors in town will notice Pride flags and Black Lives Matter signs in the windows of local businesses, but after staying awhile they'd notice how attitudes toward marginalized communities are, at best, blissfully ignorant, and at worst, disdainful; the city's treatment of the unhoused community is a perfect example.

Remember the World Athletics Championships debacle last summer? The city did its best to ensure there was little evidence of our growing unhoused population, yet failed to attract the thousands of visitors to any local businesses outside of the University of Oregon area. Huge fumble.

White liberalism shows up in Eugene in several ways, but one that isn't discussed enough is the alarming number of anti-Asian incidents my loved ones have experienced here. As a mixed-race but white-passing, middle class, educated woman, I recognize the privilege that allows me to thrive here, but my Taiwanese mother experiences discrimination in this town on a regular basis — exacerbated by the increased xenophobia towards Asians emerging from the pandemic.

Some of my mom's experiences: When out with friends, being told to "speak English" and receiving sub-par service compared to other patrons, specifically at a few notable 5th Street Public Market businesses; moving from her condo after experiencing discrimination from her neighbors, including one woman yelling, "Go back to

China" from her window; people scowling and covering their faces during the peak of COVID-19 upon seeing my mom's Asian features, despite being outside and dozens of yards away (and not doing the same with me); a grocery store employee refusing to let her use coupons because he "couldn't understand what she was saying." The list goes on.

Milder examples include the classic microaggressions of people speaking loudly and slowly to her, and the need for me to accompany her during large purchases to ensure she isn't being taken advantage of (in which case the salesperson pointedly talks to me instead of her, despite it being her dollars to spend).

A more serious example includes local Asian organizations canceling gatherings due to fear of violence, including my mom canceling Lunar New Year plans with her local Taiwanese group after the recent shootings in L.A. If your first thought after reading that sentence was, "Wasn't the shooter also Asian?" you might be in the "blissful ignorance" group I mentioned earlier.

Regardless of the color of the person's skin, hate crimes like this are fueled by structural racism and indicate a systemic issue in the way people of color are treated in this country. Stop AAPI Hate, a coalition that tracks and responds to incidents of hate toward Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in the United States, reported 11,467 hate incidents between March 19, 2020, and March 31, 2022, and found that "one in five Asian Americans and one in five Pacific Islanders experienced a hate incident in 2020 or 2021." If your reaction to that was, "What a shame," I urge you to consider what it would be like to live in fear because you or someone you love happens to look Asian. This is not just shameful. It's terrifying.

If you asked someone in town how Asian culture shows

up in Eugene, they would probably comment on the food options we have, of which there are many, though some have been vandalized repeatedly. Perhaps they would mention the annual Asian Celebration. Maybe their kid learned about Lunar New Year in school. What else? We are more than our food and yearly celebrations. Where is the (non-tokenized) representation in our city? Our government? Our school boards? Who will speak up about the anti-Asian hate happening not only on a national level, but in our own community? It can't be the sole responsibility of the local AAPI community, so I'm asking you to take action, as well. Anti-racism begins with self-awareness, so consider these self-reflection questions:

Is your knowledge of AAPI culture limited to food and Lunar New Year?

Do you have AAPI representation in your social circles?

Do you follow AAPI creatives? When was the last time you read a book, watched a film or listened to music from the AAPI community?

When you were in school, did you have AAPI teachers? Do your children have AAPI teachers?

If you use social media, do you follow AAPI content creators?

What is your first thought when you encounter someone of AAPI descent?

What do you believe the AAPI population contributes to our local community?

My mom has lived in this country for over 40 years and worked hard to earn her citizenship. How much longer must she wait to be fully embraced by her local community? ■

Alicia Balfrey is an Asian American Eugene resident and received her master's from the University of Oregon. She works in special education to provide training to teachers and serves as her organization's diversity manager.

# Fried Fuels

SEQUENTIAL BIOFUELS SELLS COOKING OIL COLLECTION BUSINESS TO FINNISH COMPANY AND TRANSITIONS TO RENEWABLE DIESEL

By Eliza Aronson

Since 2006, SeQuential Biofuels has been collecting used cooking oil from restaurants and community members and refining it into biodiesel in its plant in Salem. Diesel vehicle drivers in Eugene have been able to run that biofuel in their cars and trucks, thanks to the SeQuential station in town. That process is about to change.

On Jan. 13, Neste, a Finnish company that is the world's largest producer of renewable diesel, acquired the used cooking oil collection business that's a part of Crimson Renewable Energy Holdings, which includes SeQuential Environmental Services.

SeQuential co-owner Ian Hill says that the Eugene SeQuential retail station off McVay Highway will stay under his and his business partner Tyson Keever's ownership and is not expected to make any big changes except for

transitioning from biodiesel to renewable diesel sometime this spring.

Neste will no longer use the Salem plant to produce biodiesel and instead will ship the collected used cooking oil to a recently acquired plant in the Bay Area. Also, Neste says in a press release that it won't be making biodiesel from used cooking oil, but producing renewable diesel instead. Neste plans to use the Salem plant as a cooking oil refinery.

Biodiesel (fatty acid methyl ester) and renewable (hydrotreated vegetable oil) diesel both can be made from cooking oil, but differ mainly in their refinery process. Hill says renewable diesel is interchangeable with petroleum diesel, making it more widely available for use in diesel engines since manufacturers will endorse it. In addition, its chemical properties make it more equipped to function in colder weather.

"The way I look at it is, we were going to a next-generation technology at a scale that allows us to make a lot more impact and have a lot more carbon reduction," Keever says.

Keever says vehicles can use higher blends of renewable diesel year-round, meaning that per fill up there's less petroleum diesel being used, which hopefully will translate to more renewable fuels being used overall. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality says that "using renewable diesel can cut lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions up to 85 percent."

However, the sale means that Oregon is losing one of its biggest biodiesel production plants, and Neste will be shipping used cooking oil down to California to refine and then shipping it back up to Oregon for consumers to use here.

Keever points out that before this sale, SeQuential was collecting used cooking oil from Washington, Oregon and California, and shipping it to Salem. "It's better for the environment in the long haul because it's a much larger scale," Keever says. "Neste has huge growth ambitions to work on waste residue recycling."

According to Neste, the refinery plant in Martinez, California, is expected to be able to make 730 million gallons of renewable fuel per year. Neste states in the press release that it currently produces 845 million gallons of renewable diesel and hopes to reach 1.8 billion gallons in 2023.

Keever confirmed that those biodiesel drivers who enjoyed the french fry smell of their fuel will still waft fried food fumes from the renewable diesel. ■

# slant

• In November 2022, we ran a viewpoint by University of Oregon journalism professor Peter Laufer on his idea that Gannett should give *The Register-Guard* to the J-school in a sort of "teaching hospital" model. The idea had legs, so Laufer ran with it — he took it all the way to the top brass at Gannett, who told him "I'm all for it when the paper stops making money. Glad we're talking. But at this point it does make some money." Gannett, Laufer puts it in an updated piece in *Inside Higher Ed*, "is in the extraction business, mining as much local wealth as it can with minimal investment." **One, we need a thriving daily paper; two, let us gently remind folks that Laufer was originally able to get the word out because this local paper publishes opinions — lots of them.** So let's save the *RG* and, also, support your local free alt weekly, whose ownership takes no profit. One thing we'd like to do is pay our amazing interns more — go to Support.EugeneWeekly.com if you'd like to pitch in.

• **Clean your glass — it's time for KLCC's Brewfest.** The annual fundraiser that brings together local and regional breweries, cider houses and other fizzy drinks is back in-person for the first time since the start of the pandemic. In addition to great food options, drinks that can make your cup runneth over and other fun activities, it'll also have live music from local bands: On Friday, Feb. 10, Stone Biscuit (which features *Eugene Weekly's* own red-box supervisor Trey Longstreth) is at 7 pm, and the Hank Shreve Band is at 9 pm; on Saturday, Feb. 11, the Gerry Rempel Jazz Syndicate is at 7 pm and Inner Limits is at 9 pm. Supporting local media is always a good reason to have a few drinks, but remember to have a designated driver, get a taxi



Photo by Todd Cooper

or use your favorite rideshare app. Head to KLCC.org/brewfest for more information.

• **Eugene is the first Oregon city to prohibit natural gas in new residential buildings.** After months of discussing the subject, the Eugene City Council voted 5-3, with Councilors Mike Clark, Greg Evans and Randy Groves dissenting. The council made the decision to act on phasing out natural gas at a Feb. 6 special meeting, which was originally planned to explore whether to send the ban to voters in the May election. The ban wouldn't have happened without Councilor Emily Semple putting forth a motion to force council to decide or Mayor Lucy Vinis reminding councilors that they were elected on campaigns promising climate action.

• Show your love for the community by donating

menstrual and self-care items Tuesday, Feb. 14 (aka Valentine's Day). **Wild Rose Tattoo, at 2849 Oak Street, is hosting a donation drive for Eugene Bleeds, a mutual aid network group that provides menstrual and self-care supplies for people in need.**

The group is asking for items for use during menstrual cycles, as well as chapsticks, wipes and warmers for cramps. The group will take those items to local sites and nonprofits, such as Whiteaker Community Council, CORE and Acorn Community Café.

• **We're still hoping the University of Oregon Board of Trustees will appoint a woman or a person of color as the school's next president.** Oregon State has a woman president, Jayathi Y. Murthy, as does Lane Community College with Stephanie Bulger, and both are highly qualified BIPOC scholars and administrators. We hear a large group of UO faculty women has a strong candidate in mind. It really is time for this step ahead.

• **Speaking of diverse female leadership,** Oregon's new Democratic governor, Tina Kotek, was the author of an opinion piece in the Sunday, Feb. 5, *Oregonian*. She said she has heard from Oregonians all over the state that there are three issues of top concern: housing and homelessness, mental health and addiction services, and education. Her budget, she writes, "aims to chart a course that will make real progress in each of these areas." *Eugene Weekly* endorsed Kotek in part because we thought she would get things done. This sounds like a good start.

• Now that college athletes can be paid millions of dollars through monetizing their name, image and likeness, **we have to wonder if Bo Nix is coming back for one more season** because he loves playing football for Oregon or because he's going to make a lot of money? It's good that these athletes are finally getting paid, but it does raise the same old question: What does this have to do with the academic mission of public universities?

# Going Roundabout

THE CITY OF EUGENE SAYS IT PLANS TO REDESIGN FRANKLIN BOULEVARD TO MAKE IT SAFER AND MORE ACCESSIBLE

By Eliza Aronson

**F**ranklin Boulevard is getting a revamp. The city of Eugene says it plans to convert the busy, multi lane road into a more inclusive and accessible street for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.

In November 2021, the cities of Eugene and Springfield with support from the Lane Transit District received a federal grant for \$19 million. The RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) grant money will be used in Eugene to add roundabout intersections, an additional EmX bus lane and more spaces for pedestrians and cyclists to safely use the street from Alder Street to Interstate 5.

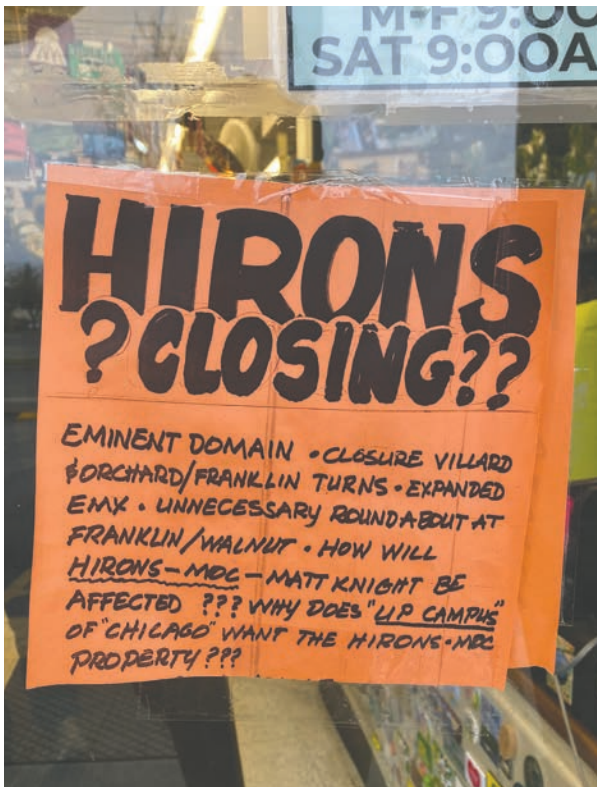
"As the University of Oregon has grown, and as students have moved to be closer to campus and live on both sides of Franklin Boulevard, it no longer works for the community," says Rob Zako, executive director of Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation (BEST). "People walk, they bike, they take the bus, and people have literally died because Franklin Boulevard is not well designed for anyone."

The Federal Highway Administration and Insurance Institute for Highway Safety say that roundabout intersections reduce fatal collisions by 90 percent, and reduce collisions overall by 37 percent. Vehicles are forced to drive slower, and one-way traffic makes it easier and safer for pedestrians and cyclists to cross. The project will also add continuous sidewalks, bike lanes and more crosswalks to promote pedestrian and cyclist safety hopefully.

The new design also adds a new EmX bus lane.

"One of the goals of this project is to build another EmX lane so that the buses can get through more efficiently," says Rob Inerfeld, transportation planning manager for the city of Eugene. "That would enable, over time, Lane Transit District to run the buses at a higher degree of frequency."

Inerfeld says the project is currently being engineered, with hopes of starting construction in 2026 and completing it by 2028. The project still needs more funding for



completion, but will begin with building roundabouts at some intersections. Inerfeld says the city will work to minimize impacts on passage through the corridor and having access to businesses.

A plan to improve the safety of Springfield's Main Street was scrapped in June 2022 after public feedback. That plan would have added roundabouts and safer pedestrian crossings, too, but also would have added a raised median. Inerfeld points out Franklin already has a median. However, the first phase of Franklin Boulevard's improvements in Glenwood, including roundabouts, were completed successfully in 2018.

"We see Franklin as an area where we can really create a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood in the city," Inerfeld says.

The design will remove a left turn lane at Orchard Street, meaning that people coming from the east trying to go to Market of Choice or Hiron's will have to go around the block at Walnut Street to enter the parking lot. However, the project will also change the intersection at Villard, which "is very awkward right now, and we will redesign that to make it safer," Inerfeld says.

John Hiron's, owner of Hiron's Pharmacy, says he is concerned that the proposed design will put the Market of Choice on Franklin out of business, and that the lot that Market of Choice and Hiron's inhabits will be bought out and replaced by student housing. "How are people going to be affected by a food desert? A pharmacy desert?" he says. People in the neighborhood "want easy, safe access, and the city is taking that away."

However, Ron Rodrigues, executive vice president of operations at Market of Choice, says, "Based on the information we've received and the meetings we've attended, we don't see any reason why the Franklin Boulevard project would impact our ability to operate or serve our community."

Despite his worries about the project's effect on business, Hiron's is in favor of the new additional crosswalk that is proposed on the Villard intersection and making sure pedestrians and cyclists are safe.

Increasing safety and accessibility is one of the main priorities for the project and is one of the reasons that organizations like BEST are in favor of the changes.

"We support the intent of the project and its purpose," Zako says. "We are hoping to see a sign that's going to make the street better for everyone, no matter how they drive or how they get around." ■

You can find more information about the project at [NewFranklinBlvd.org](http://NewFranklinBlvd.org) and email questions or comments to [Info@NewFranklinBlvd.org](mailto:Info@NewFranklinBlvd.org) or contact transportation planning manager Rob Inerfeld at [RInerfeld@eugene-or.gov](mailto:RInerfeld@eugene-or.gov) or 541-556-61-24.

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# Sexy HANDCRAFTED LINGERIE

LOCAL UNDERGARMENT MAKER HOSTS VALENTINE'S POP UP SHOP AND BOUDOIR PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

BY BRIANNA MURSCHEL

*Photo by Delene & Co.*

# BAD, BAD DATES

WE ASKED FOR YOUR TALES OF BAD DATES. YOU SCARED US.

BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN

“Everyone is worthy of well-fitting lingerie, undergarments that make them feel and look lovely,” says local lingerie maker Liat Lis. Lis’ online business, Tova Lis Lingerie, sells handcrafted lingerie pieces for any body type.

She deep-dived into sewing about six or seven years ago and worked for Kelly Durian, another maker in town, who makes bow ties and suspenders. That experience left Lis interested in doing her own kind of production and led her to the idea of creating lingerie.

“I’ve loved lingerie since I went through puberty, probably beforehand,” Lis added.

Lis is co-hosting a pop-up shop with Athena Delene of Delene & Co. photography Feb. 11.

She says people can expect “some fun body positivity,” ready-made items on sale, custom fittings, custom orders and more to look forward to.

Tova Lis Lingerie is an inclusive brand. Lis says, “I do all my pattern-making myself so I’m able to draft it to any size, and it’s for any owners of any genitals and any size chest, bust, tits, hips — everything.” The materials she uses include bamboo jersey, stretch mesh from Italy, stretch lace and organic cotton.

She began her business journey by making lingerie for herself and her friends before growing her clientele. Then she expanded her patterning to fit other bodies and sold on Etsy. She’s been slowly rolling “and getting more and more professional and confident with the products that I’m making,” she says.

Before the pandemic, Lis hosted pop-up shops through the Whiteaker Community Market. In the

2019 and 2020 Portland Unmentionable Fashion Show, models displayed some of her lingerie, and she sold her items at the event. But since the pandemic, her business has been online. “I am really stoked to do an in-person sale,” she says.

The Feb. 11 pop-up at Delene & Co.’s photography shared studio space will include complimentary Polaroid photos from a photo booth that will encourage people “to take some fun photos and maybe do something a little bit outside their comfort zone,” Delene says. Props and set pieces are available during the shoots. People can take boudoir photos or come dressed up in whatever they like.

The night before, Feb. 10, Delene & Co. will host a Valentine’s Day-themed photo experience that is family-friendly and for everyone.

Lis and Delene have worked together from the beginning of Lis’ lingerie business. “It’s been fun to grow together and evolve,” Delene says. Delene has done photo shoots to promote the different items sold on Lis’s website.

Lis says that her business is her passion, and she loves doing it at her own pace and by herself. “It’s a sweet solo activity,” she says, and her customers should feel empowered, sexy and comfortable. For Lis, lingerie is a “great opportunity for self-romance,” she added.

“I find that I have a hard time feeling comfortable in my life if I’m not comfortable in my body,” Lis says. “I find that well-fitting, lovely undergarments really help set a foundation of making me feel good in my body — and good in myself.” ♥

*Delene & Co. hosts a Valentine’s Day-themed photo booth in collaboration with Tova Lis Lingerie Feb. 10. Tova Lis Lingerie and Delene & Co. host a lingerie pop-up shop Feb. 11; both events are at 1331 Willamette Street. More info at [TovaLisLingerie.com](http://TovaLisLingerie.com).*

For the last couple COVIDian years, it’s been so damn hard to date. We here at *Eugene Weekly* thought that when restrictions got lifted, things would get fun.

They did. But while we were rosily dreaming of romantic nights out, we forgot that dating can also just plain suck. So we asked you, dear readers, to amuse us with your tales of bad dates.

Amuse us you did. You also kind of scared us.

Here are the top three worst dates you sent us and one honorable mention — winner gets a \$100 gift card to Cornucopia for two plus a \$50 certificate for the Art House movie theater.

## FIRST PLACE: COUGH SYRUP AND SHE-HULK

My date and I decided to drive out to the coast for an early evening picnic. We drove to a secret spot where the beach was down a narrow path on a giant cliff that opened up to a small sandy area.

At first all seemed well; we had some wine and talked about our lives while enjoying the beautiful view. Halfway through I noticed something was off and found out he had secretly taken Robitussin and mixed it with his wine to really get the party started. The tide was rolling in, the sun was setting and he was completely out of his mind.

“Just leave me here,” he kept laughing madly as the waves crashed closer and closer.

I ended up carrying his limp 6-foot, 5-inch sad self up the giant cliff while racing the setting sunlight and the approaching high tide, all with zero cell reception. I used my She-Hulk strength to get his sorry ass and all of our stuff up the cliff, which was pretty impressive, but needless to say that was the last time we ever saw each other.

A.M.

## SECOND PLACE: ONGOING AWKWARDNESS

I came across a cute girl on Tinder. I swiped, we matched, and a date ensued. Our picnic date was dreary from the start with light rain dampening our bread and cheese.

Bad sign #1. My date was responsible for bringing drinks and she found two light beers rolling around in her fridge since pre-pandemic.

Bad sign #2. The date went on, no connection was formed, no interest spurred.

After an hour we wrapped things up. It was now raining a bit harder. I offered to give her a ride home since she mentioned she walked. I asked "Where do you live? I can give you a lift."

She replied, somewhat shocked, "Are you serious?"

Caught off guard I said, "It's raining, I'll give you a ride. Where do you live?"

More angrily this time she said "I live right next to you. I'm your neighbor." She was, in fact, my immediate next door neighbor.

She knew the entire date and thought I was just playing coy. She revealed that her roommates kept her updated on my whereabouts throughout the day. This bad date suddenly changed from an underwhelming experience to a person I would need to wave at every day for the remainder of my lease.

J.Z.

## THIRD PLACE: THREE DATES AND A FUNERAL

Third (and last) date, Friday night, pre-cell phone days. He picks me up for dinner and tells me, "We have to stop somewhere first."

We drive to Papa's Pizza, and the place is packed with after-game soccer kids and their families. He walks over to a table and introduces me to four women, dressed in black, looking sad; a couple of rough looking bikers; and an accountant. Pizza and beer have been ordered and everyone proceeds to talk about "Jim," who was found dead a week ago.

His four daughters have come to Eugene for his wake! This group is trying to come to terms with their father/friend's sudden death, kids are running around, orders being shouted over the speaker and the Red Sox are on. What the heck? I grab some pizza and beer and get out of the way.

In about an hour, my date says the memorial is going to move to a quieter place (ya think!) and would I like to go with them? Really?!

B.H.

## HONORABLE MENTION: ASK QUESTIONS

His profile: "short dude, dad bod, kinda weird."

Me: Okay, I'm cool with all that, swipe right.

He shows up to the date (is very, very short. I'm really not prepared).

Me: "You should have mentioned that, but I understand how women are these days. Is your profile name Hexx short for something?"

Him: It's Hexx Voldemort Leviathan (Name changed)

Me: "That's interesting, Tell me more about that."

Him: "It's actually the name given to me by the entity that possessed my soul 17 years ago."

Me: (Mentally) Wow, demonic possession is a first. His profile was somewhat true but leaving a lot out.

Moral of the story: Dating profiles leave a lot out. Ask good questions. Keep asking questions.

A. L.



# WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF LOVE ?

## LOCAL TEACHER WRITES HARLEQUIN ROMANCES, DISCUSSES HOW THE NOVELS HAVE CHANGED

BY ELIZA ARONSON

Classes at South Eugene High School start at 8:30 am, but history teacher Anna Grace wakes up four and a half hours before the bell rings. In the dark, in a little nook in her house, she begins her day writing — and she's writing about love.

When not teaching at SEHS, Grace is a Harlequin romance novelist. She's been a writer her whole life and tells *Eugene Weekly* that she wrote her first romance novel when she was 11 at a Girl Scout camp. She wrote throughout her childhood, constructing short stories where her friends would fall in love with famous band members.

When she got to her 20s, she originally told herself she needed to become a serious writer, writing about serious things.

"I would start to write things and they would just come out as romances. This is just what I write. It's very much the story that I need to tell," she says.

She got her first novel published in 2018 by a small press that has since gone out of business, and in 2021 she got her first contract with Harlequin. So far she has published two books, *Send Me* and *A Rancher Worth Remembering*. A two-book contract turned into a five-book contract, and Grace's lifelong passion for romantic storytelling is now a legitimate, award-winning career. Her novella *Send Me* won Top Pick at the Book Buyers Awards, meaning it was not only the best in its category but best book overall in the competition.

Before getting her first book published, Grace had already written seven novels but had been hesitant to share her writing with others. Despite being the highest-grossing literary genre, with a Book Ad Report estimating 2021 sales at \$1.44 billion, romance novels get a lot of judgment.

In Grace's opinion, a lot of the judgment is based on sexist stereotypes and outdated societal views. "We are no longer into books where there's no consenting sex,"

Grace says. "That's not something that we as a society will stand for anymore in our novels or in our real lives."

And of course, there are books of all types that still contain story arcs and characters that might not be viewed as modern, but overall Grace argues that romance has adapted and kept up with progressing standards.

"If I was writing mysteries people wouldn't stop to say, 'Well, are you perpetuating stereotypes?'" Grace says.

For Grace, romance is the genre of hope. It's the genre where people can find inspiration to overcome insecurities and faults to forge real connections. And while it's easy to dismiss novels as just fiction and fantasy, Grace tells *EW* that she believes the same for real life.

"When you see two people who are in love with a great relationship, it makes them stronger," she says. "They're able to do more in the world and be better parents and community members."

Grace's husband, Jeff Hess, is one of her biggest supporters. She says that it's no coincidence that the years after falling in love with Hess is when she started finally sharing her writing with him and the world, and it allowed her career to come together in a way she had always imagined it.

While it was her romantic partner who gave her the courage to take the next step in her work, Grace makes it clear that romance and love don't just have to come from a traditional partner or in a traditional Hallmark Valentine's Day type of way. Grace says she is also immensely thankful for her editing partners, Katie Frey and Kristine Lynn. The three women began peer-editing for each other a few years back, and within a year of working together, all three got contracts at Harlequin.

"Love happens in a great friendship. Love happens with people that you're tight with at work. It comes in so many forms," she says. "Love is powerful throughout the year and throughout our lives." ♥

You can find Anna Grace's books locally at Tsunami Books and online at BarnesandNoble.com and Harlequin.com.

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Roger Hall	Gary Hersh	Troy Hvass	Hallie Kelly	Jerry Lawton	Leroy Marney	Belinda Merlos	Deanna Nelson
Rhiannon Hall	John Hester	Joe Ingram	Christine Kelly	Anthony Le	Denise Marney	David Merrill	Myron Nelson
Jason Hall	Daniel Heuston	Nancy Ingram	Michael Kemple	Larry Leaton	Morgan Marney	John Metcalf	Tracy Nelson
Ken Hamacher	Joshua Heying	Melissa Inman	Robin Kennett	Debbie Leber	Rebecca Marsh	Robert Metcalf	Ryan Nelson
Robyn Hamacher	Jill Hiatt	Jonas Israel	Ivy Kennett	Doug Ledbetter	Craig Marshall	Marty Metzel	Randolph Nelson
Barbara Hamrick	Mark Hibbard	Masahiko Itai	Dianne Kenney	Thea Lee	Vic Martin	Sandra Michaud	Janice Nelson
Azucena Hands	Valerie Hibbard	Matvey Ivashov	Katherine Kenyon	Laurel Lee	William Martin	Alexandra Michel	Kevin Ness
Sharon Hanke	Zaiah Hibdon	Sherie Jackson	Brian Kern	Jessica Lee	Adrienne Martin-Anderson	Cory Middleton	Larry Newby
Tom Hannah	Ken Hibdon	Patrick Jackson	Diane Kerns	Allison Lehn	Shari Martinez	Randy Miles	Jacob Newey
Cameron Hanner	Kendra Higgins	Leah Jaeger	Dakota Kerr	Steve Lemelin	Alexis Martinez	Janette Miller	Magdalena Newey
Brittany Hanner	Summer Highfill	Robert James	Matt Kienitz	Travis Lemkau	Otto Martinez	Sandy Miller	Michael Newman
Pete Hansen	Tiffany Hill	Carolyn James	Stephen Kim	Curtis Lemons	Chris Mason	Jo Miller	Randall Newnham
Tom Happy	Jessie Hill	Paula Jameson	Chong Kim	Megan Lenhardt	Mady Maszk	Evelyn Miller	Matthew Newton
Ken Harie	Rick Hill	Matthew Janise	Diane Kimball	Michael Leslie	Matt Mathiesen	Robert Miller	Tam Nguyen
Vic Hariton	Erin Hilton	Amanda Jarvis	Erven Kincaid	Kirk Letourneau	Angela Mathisen	Lauren Miller	Huong Nguyen
Don Harms	Holly Hine	Adam Jarvis	Douglas King	David Lewis	Andrew Matlock	Jack Miller	Garland Nichols
Richard Harms	Kristin Hiner	Mike Jarvis	Tami King	Barbara Lighty	Susan Matthies	Christina Miller	Kim NicholSEN
Chila Harms	Karea Hittenberger	Suzanne Jarvis	Patricia King	Eric Liljenquist	Joseph May	Kelsey Miller	Sareya Nicholson
Ronda Harness	Arnt Hjortland	Jordan Jarvis	Mary King	Jacob Lindland	Emily May	Chris Miller	Kristen Noor
Patrick Harness	Greg Hodges	William Jeffryes	Constance King	Betty Lindstrom	Sophia Maya	Linda Miller	James Novitsky
Mark Harpham	Jordan Hodges	Olga Jeffryes	Jeremy King	Skyler Lindstrom-Hernandez	Harry Mayfield	Ruby Miller	Andy Nowlen
Hank Harrach	Pamela Hodson	Jack Jennings	Patricia Kinkade	David Ling	Leann Mcarthur	Donna Miller	Sandra Nunnelee
Tracy Harris	Annemarie Hoffman	Jeanine Jensen	Jerry Kinkade	Amanda Linsley	Pamela Mcbryde	Jacqueline Miller	Mckenzie Nyseth
Ginger Harris	Chuck Hoffman	Rick Jensen	Melissa Kittell	Stephany Lints	Taylor Mccall	Kenneth Miller	David Nyseth
Sharrilee Harris	Jeremiah Hogenkamp	Jerry Jensen	Scott Klein	Shawn Liudahl	Tamera Mccarley-Dreier	Patrick Milner	Kim O'Brien
Denise Harris	Randy Hohnstein	Nicole Jensen	Chris Kline	Bradley Livingston	Doug Mcchesney	Kasey Minnis	James O'Donnell
Jesse Harris	David Hohnstein	Ron Jensen	Kelley Kline	Janelle Lloyd	Donald Mcclafin	Joseph Mitchell	Michael O'Malley
Mercedes Harris	Penny Hohnstein	Mark Jewell	Carolyn Kline	Monte Lloyd	Fay McClain	Martin Mitchell	Jami O'Reilly
Robert Harrison	Sharon Hohnstein	Rerry Jochman	Darcy Knight	Erik Loberg	Jeremy McClain	Natashka Moderzinksky	Brian Oahland
Donnelle Hart	Diego Holbrook	Brian Johnson	Michael Knight	Dustin Locke	Jess Mccomb	Terry Moede	Karen Oakes
Yolanda Harter	Kenneth Holdampf	Kristopher Johnson	Scott Knipe	Kassandra Locke	Lynda Mccord	Greg Mohler	Ima Ocon
John Hartney	Connie Holdampf	Tommy Johnson	Kimberly Knipe	Jordan Locke	Fred Mccord	Donna Mohler	Michael Odell
Shari Hartshorn	John Holeman	Rose Johnson	Sophie Knoles	Dan Lockwood	Wyatt Mccord	Jaclyn Mohr	Les Oehme
Kate Harvey	Leann Holley	Timothy Johnson	Ed Kocian	Barrett Lockwood	Charles Mccormick	Catharine Monrean	Nick Ogg
Richard Harvey	Amy Holliday	Elizabeth Johnson	Jerry Kolen	Rita Lombard	James Mccoy	Delila Montes	Jerry Ogren
Lydia Harvey	Kenneth Hollingsworth	Michael Johnson	Monica Kranzler	Michele Londo	Tabetha Mccoy	Rodger Moody	Megan Ogren
Judith Harvey	Mark Hollister	Chad Johnston	Neil Kranzler	Kenneth Loper	Mary Mccoy	Hemid Moody	Ramona Okin
Amber Harvey	Erick Hollister	Kevin Jones	Leonard Krause	Luis Lopez	Stephen Mcdermott	Julia Moore	Hannah Oldham
Michael Harvey	Sharon Holman	Dean Jones	Laura Krenk	Ron Lown	Kristy Mcelravy	Joan Moore	Clyde Oliver
Lois Harvick	Andrew Holman	David Jones	Nicholas Krieger	Debbie Lown	Josh Mcelravy	Don Moore	James Oliver
Becky Haskins	Trinity Holman	Donald Jones	Christopher Kritch	Jeff Lozar	Brandon Mcfarland	Jocelyn Moore	Amanda Olson
Fred Hasse	Rebecca Holt	Michele Jones	Lloyd Kruse	John Lubash	Mike Mcfarlane	Douglas Moorhead	Alexis Olson
Amy Hastie	Evelyn Holtz	George Jones	Thomas Kubince	Jessica Lucas	Sean Mcgarry	Frankie Morales	Marcus Olson
Heather Hastings	Candice Hook	Henry Jones	Trina Kubishta	Sue Lucia	Gordon Mcgraw	Hailey More	Kimberlee Olson
Chris Haubrich	Aaron Hooper	Diana Jones	Scott Kudlemyer	Rosiland Lund	Christina Mckenzie	Kevin Morehouse	Raymundo Orduño
Jeffrey Hausman	Lily Horn	John Jones	Zigmas Kungys	Sonya Lupericio-Lee	Stephen Mckinley	David Morgan	Lyndsi Orton
Mark Havens	Carolee Horning	Robert Jones	Andre Kuttis	Lukey Luther	Diane Mckinley	Nora Morgan	Mark Overholt
Stephen Hawke	Eric Horton	Larry Jones	Shannon Ladner	Bonnie Macfarlane	Matthew Mclean	Calvin Morgan	Marvin Owens
Jasson Hawkensen	Linda Horton	Jeannine Jones	Sherry Lady	Nick Mack	Susan Mcling	Lance Morgan	Ralph Pace
Summer Hawwns	Richard Houghtaling	Shawn Jones	Jason Lafferty	Robert Mack	Ed McMahon	Lauren Morgan	Megan Packnett
Drew Haykal	Bruce Houser	Rishain Jones	Paula Lafferty	Emily Mackenzie	Jessie Mcmillan	Cestla Moritz	Dennis Page
Tracy Haynes	Dawne Howard	Michael Jones	Sam Lafferty	Sally Madden	Sean Mcnamara	Sergio Moro	Kim Page
Christopher Hazen	Carla Howard	Patrick Jordan	Patricia Lambert	Patrick Madden	Linda Mcpherson	Terry Mortensen	Lia Pagel
David Heck	Paul Howard	Chandler Jordan	Shane Lambert	Gail Madsen	Nathan Mead	Charles Moss	Frank Papagni
Justin Heide	Patrick Howard	Tracy Joscelyn	Richard Lambert	Nickolas Maeder	Jesse Medina	Shawn Mota	David Pappel
Robert Heinke	Dan Howard	Samantha Joseph	John Lambeth-Anderson	Mark Mages	Lynne Meeken	R. Mount	Joseph Paraszewski
Luke Heinrich	Zachary Howell	Kathryn Joy	Steve Lambros	Ann Mahoney	Brian Megert	Ron Moyer	Brittany Parks
Genee Heinz	Justin Howell	Damian Jump	Anthony Lamore	John Mai	Raina Megert	Jacki Moyer	Zach Parlar
Tammie Heitz	Jeremy Howland	Vicki Jump	Gordon Landers	Derek Main	Mitch Mehen	Nancy Moyer	Dustin Parson
Robert Heitzman	Anne Hoy	Jared Kalis	David Lane	Sonya Main	Frederic Meier	David Muhlethaler	Duane Partain
Janice Helbling	Kristen Hubbard	Kori Kapihe	Rhonda Lane	Jeffery Mallette	Edward Melia	Melva Mullen	Tina Patel
Jeanine Hellyer	Liliana Huffman	Walter Kaptain	Deane Lange	Karen Malloy	Aaron Melnychuk	Michael Mullen	Ron Patton
Heatherann Helms	Tamara Hughes	Wilma Karagavoorian	Rusty Langston	Larry Manchas	Tanner Melton	John Murkin	Sandra Patton
Kirsten Henry-Lea	Patrick Hughes	Steve Karter				Curtis Murphy	Ryan Paull

OUR PARTNERS



Maggie Payton	Max Radke	Richard Roseta	Tanner Shelley	Jeri Steele	Diane Toberman	Stephanie Walker	Rick Williams
Ken Peake	Kelsey Radley	Zach Ross	Shari Sherk	Radhika Stein	Neil Tobin	Nora Walker	Ralph Williams
Daniel Pearson	Barry Rager	Zack Rousseau	Desiree Sherman	Laura Steinebach	Cheryl Todd	David Walker	Marlon Williams
Pat Pecorilla	Janina Rager	Skye Rowe	Dan Shook	Greg Steiner	Jessie Toler	Brandon Walker	James Wilson
Jennifer Pedersen	Nancy Ragonesi	Stephen Rubin	Delorse Shores	Michael Steiner	Sidsel Tompkins	Ben Wallace	Martin Wilson
Astrid Pedersen	Linda Rain	Lorenzo Ruiz	Henry Shorter	Steve Steiner	Michael Torres	Janet Walrath	Carlton Wilson
Michael Pelch	Sarah Marie Raleigh	Jerald Rundstrom	Justin Shuttleworth	Matthew Stenzel	Elizabeth Tower	Lila Walsh	Christopher Wilson
John Pender	Jacob Ralston	Sam Russell	Victoria Sienko	Derek Stewart	Deidra Towers	Cheryl Walsh	Stephen Wilson
Yubitid Perct	Ajax Rarbeen	Tyler Russell	Vicki Silverthorne	Julia Stewart	Angela Towle	Thomas Walter	Kathy Wilson
Yana Perekestova	Stephanie Rascon	Jan Ryan	John Silvey	Dave Stewart	Donna Townsend	Mark Walter	Daniel Wilson
Kevin Perry	Robert Raught	Ryan Sabine	Joseph Simbari	David Stoltz	Clayton Townsend	Gerald Walters	Steve Winter
William Perry	Andy Ray	Tricia Sabine	Marie Simmons	Hannah Stoltz	Julie Tracey	Frank Wann	Marilyn Winter
Kelley Perry	Kelli Ray	Judith Sackett	Roni Simone	Haskel Stone	Elizabeth Treacy	Craig Ward	Ofelia Wise
Kathleen Peters	Anthony Read	Candie Sagehorn	Danielle Simpson	Cari Stone	Meagan Treadway	Brandon Warembourg	Gary Wiser
Jasmine Peters	Stacey Ream	Rechelle Salgado	Richard Sims	Tim Stonich	Dustin Treese	Michael Wares	Eshell Withem
Erik Petersen	David Reed	Ray Salgado	Matt Sin	Ty Strasheim	Yesenia Treese	Brad Warner	Don Wittish
Kevin Peterson	Danielle Reeder	Anabel Sanchez	Susan Sinclair	Tammy Streeter	James Trivett	Teresa Warner	Joyce Wittish
Joseph Peterson	Jason Reeder	Larry Sandford	Stanley Singer	William Streeter	Annette Trucke	Ron Warren	Heather Wolcott
Timmy Pettibone	Chris Reel	Ferenc Sandy	Richard Skeie	Rachel Stricker	Drew Trusler	Cathleen Warren	Jason Wolcott
Zachary Pew	Stephanie Reese	Tracy Sansone	Brianna Skolnick	David Strickland	Alex Tuckey	Howard Eric Watkins	Andrew Woldridge
Mark Pezzoni	Michael Rehberger	Angie Saxton	Ray Skuma	Marie Skuma	Jonathan Turner	Janet Weaver	Jody Woldt
John Phelps	Joanne Rehberger	Joyce Scarr	Ray Slaughter	Judith Stringham	Rex Turner	Hayden Webb	Randy Woldt
Cindy Phelps	Michelle Reid	Tommy Scevers	Norinne Slaughter	Jennifer Strong	Reed Turner	Damon Weese	Tina Wolf
Randy Phillips	Louis Reinhart	Joe Schafer	Carolyn Smith	Joseph Strub	George Turpin	Jason Weiss	Kitty Wood
Jeff Phillips	Sharon Reinhart	Thana Schafer	Ronald Smith	Ruth Strub	Chana Twoguns	Lindsay Weiss	Wes Woodcook
Doug Phillips	Jack Reinitz	Mary Schaufler	Lauren Smith	Melody Stuart	Zachary Tyler	Crystal Weiss	Roseanna Woods Riffel
Debbie Phillips	Lon Rhoads	David Schiek	Sharon Smith	William Stuart	Trevor Uehlin	William Welch	Tenille Woodward
Susan Phillips	Gary Rholl	Stephen Schilling	Roland Smith	Gretchen Stupke	Kris Uhlhom	Renee Welch	Ken Woody
Dianne Phillips	Catherine Richardson	Bridget Schineder	Leroy Smith	Kenton Sturdevant	Kardo Valencia	Michael Welch-Cook	Larry Wooley
Greg Phillips	Josh Richmond	Colleen Schlona	Christopher Smith	Stephen Such	Robert Valencia	Patricia Weller	Carmen Wooley
Samantha Pickney	Rick Grosscup	Lee Schnabel	Daniel L. Smith	Daniel Suing	Yvonne Valentine	Tyler Wells	Krystal Woolley
Charles Picolet	Lawrence Rideout	Jessica Schober	Holly Smith	Martha Sutherland	Elizabeth Valentine	Samuel Wells	Christina Worrell
Sophie Pierce	Vanessa Ries	Zach Schoen	Matt Smith	Merrie Svetich	Victor Valverde	Dieter Welte	Kim Wright
Patrick Pinard	Jessica Rikken	Shelby Schofield	Michelle Smith	Kevin Swarner	Curtis Van Burkleo Jr.	Sara Wendlandt	Lane Wrigwood
Kellie Pine	Lance Rikken	Marybeth Schombert	David Smith	Tanner Swartout	Lynda Van Doran	Miles Wendlandt	Sherice Yakis
Steve Pittman	Tim Riley	Steve Schropp	Sarah Smolic	Richard Swearingen	Steve Van Dyke	Brad Werneth	Travis Yakis
Dan Plaisted	Lauren Riley	Sharon Schropp	Heidi Smothers	Lucas Sweger	Sigmund Van Hook	Patricia West	Greg Yamada
Roger Plant	Frances Riney	Mike Schropp	Brad Snider	Wayne Swier	Linda Van Mierlo	Beth Whalen	Ellyn Yandel
Hayley Pletcher	Chris Riney	Julia Schuler	Barbara Snow	David Swing	Eric Vanaman	Steve Wheeler	Robert Yates
Karen Plummer	Christina Ringer	Greg Schultz	Stephen Snyder	Chris Syphero	Brandon Vanderploeg	Dustin Wheeler	Jay Yates
Melinda Plummer	Henry Rippel	Peter Schumacher	Kathy Snyder	Doris Syphers	Jeff Varco	Diane Whiffin	Dwain Yeskis
Joseph Podhasky	Jane Ritter	Steve Schussman	Dennis Snyder	Kelley Syphers	Jason Vasquez	Susan Whitaker	Dewi Yokelson
Ian Pond	Holli Rivera	Barry Schweigert	Derek Solarzano	Bonara Tan	Stuart Vaughn	Pamela Whitaker	John York
Kanchayanee	Mark Rivers	Nicoless Scofeld-Lane	Charles Sosa	Pamela Taylor	Cassandra Vazquez	James White	Robert Yost
Pongnusan-Jones	Deborah Roberts	Billie Scott	Vanesa Soto	Gregory Taylor	Jair Velasquez	Meredith White	Beverly Young
Tyler Poppe	Marvin Roberts	Travis Sebastian	Rossy Soto	Shauna Taylor	Jared Velez	James Whitehall	Brendan Young
Michael Popplewell	Jason Robinson	Linda Sebring	Marian Sparks	Makenzie Taylor	Angelo Verna	Robert Whittlatch	Tonya Young
Troy Potter	Linda Rockey	Alison Seiders	Dylan Spellman	Elliot Taylor	Frank Vetter	Suzanne Whitney	Laureen Youngblood
Brent Powell	Michele Rodeen	Lynn Seifert	Heidi Spellman	Calvin Taylor	Madonna Vetter	Richard Whitted	Megan Younge
Judy Power	John Roderick	Cat Selvaggio	Zachary Spence	Anne Teeling	Melanie Vigue	Lynne Whittington	Brian Zehr
Marcus Pratt	Ashley Rodgers	Alma Serna	Sonya Spencer	Michael Temple	Roberto Villa	Pamela Whyte	Driana Zehr
Trevor Pratt	Travis Rodrigues	Donna Settelmeyer	Frederic Sperry	John Terry	Charles Vincent	Elizabeth Widdop	Lonnie Ziebart
Trent Preston-Mittasch	Ralph Rodriguez	Carla Severe	Jean Sperry	David Thaut	Lawrence Viscarra	Anna Wilczynska	Leanne Zilka
Lisa Priaulx	Krystle Rodriguez	Robert Sewell	Brek Splittgerber	Jeff Thibaut	Andy Vobora	Lori Wilhelm	Vicki Zimmerlee
Shay Prim	Alfred Roeske	Tristyann Sexton	Teresa St. Julian	Jim Thomas	Jeffrey Vogel	Justin Wilkins	Thomas Zingheim
Nancy Probst	Denice Rogers	Christa Seymour	Gerald Stackhouse	Mary Thomas	Pamela Von Almen	Fred Wilkinson	Michelle Zivica
Gabriel Provencio	Alex Rogers	Darrell Shaft	Bree Staffelbach	Kristi Thomas	Jerri Von Otterstedt	David Willaman	Jan Zoll
Kelly Prutch	Brian Rogers	Janette Shanahan	Mark Stafford	Maleah Thomas	Mark Vonderheit	Rachel Williams	Robert Zunke
Adam Psenski	Will Rogers	Richard Shankle	Mike Stafford	Brian Thompson	Gary Voorhies	Phillip Williams	Martin Zurn
Amber Puckett	Craig Rogers	Brendi Shannon	Nate Stain	Loree Thompson	Julie Voss		
Jill Purcell	Kristine Rogers	Eleanor Shantz	William Stancil	Brian Thompson	Robert Vreim		
Debra Purvis	Margarita Rojas	Lisa Shaw	Janis Stanich	Reagan Thompson	Valerie Wach		
John Quilter	Victoria Rojas	John Shaw	Jamie Stanton	Frank Thomson	John Wagner		
Wilbur Quiring	Carmen Rosa	Dan Shedler	Danny Staso	Mara Thygeson	Shyanna Waid		
Nicole Radke	Shannon and	Natalie Sheild	Tom Stave	Delores Tiktin	Barbie Walker		

We know how to fight climate change. Electric utilities are lowering carbon emissions with a mix of hydropower, wind and solar. In a similar way, the natural gas system is evolving by working to provide communities with renewable natural gas and clean hydrogen over time.

But some activists demand that the City Council ban natural gas in new homes and businesses – **starting on June 30, 2023**. This, despite reliability concerns and a recent City report projecting that a ban leads to very little carbon savings (less than 2% emissions reduction by 2037).<sup>1</sup>

Be a voice for energy choice.

Go to **EugeneForEnergyChoice.com** and sign up. You'll find more information, as well as easy ways to make sure your voice is heard.

<sup>1</sup> City Council agenda, July 25, 2022, p. 10: <https://bit.ly/3jrP94I>, and Council Work Session, July 25, 2022, timestamp 28:42: <https://bit.ly/3jrDrQJ>  
*The Eugene residents, workers, business representatives and community leaders listed above have permitted the use of their name in this message and represent just a fraction of the more than 3,000 people who have already joined us in support. This message is a collaboration with named partners and NW Natural. Not paid for by NW Natural customers.*

Join us.



Whiteaker Hot Club, jazz-swing, 7:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C. Living Loving Led, Led Zepelin tribute band, 8pm, Wildish Theater, 630 Main St., Spfd. \$15-20.

New Victorian, Americana, 8pm, Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St., Cottage Grove. N/C.

WOW Hall Sweethearts Dance ft The Macks, rock, EWEB, The Dannie Dorko Outfit & Isaac Waggoner, 8pm, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave. \$8.

NIGHTLIFE

Hip Hop Dance Battle, 7pm, OG Studios, 129 14th St., Spfd. \$10.

Karaoke Night, 8pm, Doc's Pad, 710 Willamette St. FREE.

Ghost House Goth Industrial Night, 9pm, Old Nick's Pub, 211 Washington St. \$10.

Red Raven Follies (Eugene's OG Burlesque/Variety Troupe), 9pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$10.

Scrumptious Scoundrels, 9pm, 255 Madison, 255 Madison St., \$10.

90s vs. 2000s Dance Party!, 10pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$5.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

College men's basketball: UCLA vs. Oregon, 7pm, Matt Knight Arena. Tickets at GoDucks.com. ESPN.

SOCIAL DANCE

Valentine's Dance Social, 6-8pm, Willamalane Adult Activity Ctr., 215 W. C St., Spfd. Reg. at Willamalane.org. \$20-25.

Contra Dance, 7-10:30pm, The Village School, 3411 Willamette St. \$8-20, sliding scale. Info at EugeneFolklore.org.

TEENS

Queer Eugene Teen Time, 2-4pm drop-in, Eugene Public Library. FREE.

SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 12

ARTS/CRAFTS

Paint Party, 1-3:30pm, The Gone Rogue Boutique LLC, 123 Monroe St., ste. A. \$45.

COMEDY

Come On In! Comedy Open Mic, 8pm, The Barn Light, 924 Willamette St. FREE.

DRAG

Morning Cup of Coffee Drag Brunch, noon, Old Nick's 211 Washington St. \$13-15.

FILM

Eugene Friends of Jung Presents: *Bill Moyers, The Power of Myth*, 2pm, Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St. FREE.

GATHERINGS

Deep Discussion Series, 6-7pm, Alluvium, 810 W. 3rd Ave. FREE.

KIDS/FAMILY

Dungeon Crawlers (ages 10-12), 4:30-6:30pm, Shelton McMurphey Johnson House, 303 Willamette St. Reg. info at SmjHouse.org.

Fun w/ Puzzles, 1-5pm drop-in, Eugene Public Library. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Women's Self-Defense Class (ages 14+), 2-3pm, Art of War MMA, 164 W. Broadway. \$5-50, sliding scale.

Deep Conversation Series, 6-7pm, Alluvium, 810 W 3rd Ave. FREE.

MARKETS

Picc-A-Dilly Flea Market, 8am-3pm, Lane Events Ctr., 796 W. 13th Ave. \$7.50 early admission (8-10am), \$1.50 after 10am.

McKenzie River Open Market Holiday Fair, 10am-4:30pm, McKenzie Fire & Rescue Ctr., 42870 McKenzie Hwy, Leaburg.

Free Market, 1-3pm, Alluvium, 810 W 3rd Ave.

Valentine's Day Sip & Shop, 4pm, 255 Madison, 255 Madison St.

MUSIC

Dorian May Trio, jazz, 2pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

An Afternoon of Music by Franz Joseph Hayden, organ & chamber music, 4pm, Central Lutheran Church, 1857 Potter St. \$10-20 don. FOOD For Lane County.

Irish Jam, 4pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. N/C.

Joe Manis Trio, jazz, 4pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Sunday Eastside Jam, 5pm sign-up, 6pm music, Twisted River Saloon, 1444 Main St., Spfd. N/C.

NIGHTLIFE

Open Mic, 5-7pm, ColdFire Brewing Company, 263 Mill St. FREE.

Open Mic, 7-10pm, Alluvium, 810 W 3rd Ave. FREE.

Karaoke, 7:30pm, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Temple the Bard, 9pm, Old Nick's, 211 Washington St. FREE.

ON THE AIR

Island Earth Radio, 8am, KEPW, 97.3 FM.

Radiolab, 10am, KLCC, 89.7 FM.

RECREATION

Yoga + Beer, 10-11am, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. Info at PublicHouseHub.com.

Eugene Community Movement & Ecstatic Dance, 11am-1pm, 118 Merry Ln. Email Mmeyer@efn.org for more info. FREE.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

College women's basketball: Oregon vs. UCLA, noon, KUJZ, 95.3 FM.

THEATER

Auditions for *The Fantastics*, 6:30pm, Pegasus Playhouse, 402 Main St., Spfd.

MONDAY  
FEBRUARY 13

CIVICS

Finance Committee meeting of Upper Willamette Soil & Conservation District, 10:30am. Email Admin@uwsacd.org for online link.

Lane Economic Committee meeting, 11:30am-1pm. Link at LCOG.org.

COMEDY

The Second City Swipes Right: An Incomplete Guide to the Ultimate Date Night, 7:30pm, Hult Ctr. tickets start at \$28.

GATHERINGS

Eugene Frontrunners: A run/walk club for LGBTQIA+ folk & friends, 6pm, Amazon (Rexius) Trail Lp., 24th Ave. & Amazon Pkwy. FREE.

Flip the Switch (workshop/jplayshop hosted by Teryani Lebendig), 6-9pm, Alluvium, 810 W. 3rd Ave. FREE.

Integration Meetings, 7pm, Alluvium, 810 W. 3rd Ave. FREE.

Refuge Recovery Buddha Eye meeting, 7-8:30pm, Buddha Eye Temple, 2190 Garfield St. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

History Pub w/ Patience Collier,: "Womanless, Homeless, Godless:: Race, Sexuality & Gender in Salmon Cannery Labor Struggles," 7 -9pm, Whirled Pies, 199 W. 8th Ave. FREE.

MUSIC

Join the Women's Choral Society for the Spring Season!, 6:30-9pm, UO School of Music, rm. 163.

Rex, rock, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette St. \$12.

NIGHTLIFE

Bingo, 6-8pm, Gryff's Pub, 720 S. A St., Spfd. FREE.

Cribbage, 6pm, ColdFire Brewing, 263 Mill St. 4-game tournament, \$3 buy-in. Info at EugeneCribbage.com.

Trivia Mondays, 6:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

\$500 Guarantee, 7pm, High Mountain Poker, 1020 Green Acres Rd., ste. 13. \$25 buy-in, \$10 dealer double. More info at 541-485-0090.

Giant Game Night, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

What Do You Know? Trivia, 8pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive St. FREE.

Bingo, 9pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. FREE.

TUESDAY  
FEBRUARY 14

Valentine's Day

ARTS/CRAFTS

Paint & Sip — Couple & Singles Night (Art w/ Alejandro), 7-9pm, 246 E. 5th Ave., #224. \$45-70.

CIVICS

Board of Directors meeting of Upper Willamette Soil & Conservation District, 10:30am. Email Admin@uwsacd.org for online link.

GATHERINGS

Send Diplomats, Not Bombs!, noon-1pm, Federal Courthouse, 405 E. 8th Ave.

Recovery Dharma Buddhist meeting, 5:30-7pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave. FREE.

KIDS/FAMILY

Baby Connection, for infants up to 1, 11am-noon, ParentingNow.org.

Tweens: Tabletop Gaming, 4pm, Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Pajama Storytime, 6pm, Eugene Public Library. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Living With Memory Loss, 10am-noon, Good Samaritan Society Chapel, 3500 Hilyard St. Register at ElderHealthAndLiving.com.

History Pub, 5pm, Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St., Cottage Grove. N/C.

LITERARY ARTS

Character IS Conflict: One-Time Workshop + Q&A e/ Eric Witchey, 3-4:30pm, Wordcrafters, 438 Charnelton st., ste. 102. \$15-25.

Silent Book Club, 6-8pm drop-in, Graduate Hotel, 66 E. 6th Ave. FREE. Cocktails & bites available for purchase.

MUSIC

Candy Apple Bleu, soft rock, 7pm, Vets Memorial

**ELECTRIFY EUGENE**

Dear Mayor Vinis & City Councilors

Thank you for your work to develop and approve the Ordinance directing that

**NEW Residential Buildings be 100% ELECTRIC.**

Your community is counting on you to continue to be strong Oregon CLIMATE Leaders!

Thank you.

**PLUG in to a CLEAN future!**

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Ballroom, 1620 Willamette St. \$15.

Rooster's Blues Jam, 7pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette St. N/C.

Bluegrass Jam, 8:30pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. N/C.

### NIGHTLIFE

Salsa dancing, 7-10pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive St. \$5.

Trivia Tuesdays, 7-9pm, beer-garden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

What Do You Know? Trivia, 7-9pm, First National Taphouse, 51 W. Broadway; Gateway Grill, 3198 Gateway St. & Pour House Tavern, 444 N. 42nd St., Spfd. FREE.

What Do You Know? Trivia, 8pm, Wild Goat, 1675 Franklin Blvd. FREE.

Karaoke Night, 9:15pm, Level Up, 1290 Oak St. FREE.

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### RECREATION

Tuesday Night Omaha Tournament, 7pm, High Mountain Poker, 1020 Green Acres Rd., ste. 13. Call 541-485-0090 to get on list.

### SPIRITUAL

Sound Meditation, 7pm, Eugene Yoga South, 3575 Donald St. #180. \$25-67.50.

## WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 15

### ARTS/CRAFTS

Weekly Figure Art Sessions, 6:15-9pm, New Zone Gallery, 110 E. 11th Ave. \$8.

### COMEDY

Out At Night: LGBTQ Comedy, 8pm, Nelson's In The Whit, 394 Blair Blvd. \$10.

### FILM

Movie Group: *Dark Waters*, 1pm, Willamalane Adult Activity Ctr., 215 W. C St., Spfd. FREE.

SPRINGfilm: *A League of Their Own* (1992), 6:30pm, Wildish Theater, 630 Main St., Spfd. FREE.

### GATHERINGS

Easterseals Job & Resource Fair, 10am-2pm, Venue 252, 252 Lawrence St. FREE.

Recovery Dharma Buddhist meeting, 5:30-7pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave. FREE.

Cascade Mycological Society meeting, 7-9pm, Amazon Community Ctr., 2700 Hilyard St. FREE.

### KIDS/FAMILY

Baby Connection, for infants up to 1, 11am-noon, ParentingNow.org.

Pajama Storytime, 6pm, Eugene Public Library. FREE.

### MUSIC

Petri Dish, jazz-R&B, 6:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Alex Kivett Quartet One Set Wednesday & After Show Jam hosted by Paul Krueger, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$10.

Chico Schwall: *Immigrant Mashup*, roots, 7:30pm, The Shedd. \$15-21.

Shelley James & Callan Coleman, pop, 8pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette St. N/C.

Secret Beach, indie pop, w/ Jeremy James Meyer & Chandler Trey Johnson, 8pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$5.

### NIGHTLIFE

What Do You Know? Trivia, 5pm, Tap & Growler, 207 E. 5th Ave. FREE.

Beer, Banter & Quality Trivia, 6pm, Hop Valley Brewing Co., 990 W. 1st. Ave. FREE.

Trivia, 7pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette St. FREE.

What Do You Know? Trivia, 7pm, The Barger Grill, 4261 Barger Dr., & Side Bar, 1680 Coburg Rd. FREE.

Karaoke, 9pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive St. FREE.

Karaoke, 9pm, The Webfoot, 839 E. 13th Ave. FREE.

### RECREATION

Queer Youth Yoga, 6-7pm, Gender Diverse Yoga, 7-8pm, Sheldon Community Ctr., 2445 Willakenzie Rd. FREE.

### SPECTATOR SPORTS

College men's basketball: Oregon vs. Washington, 8pm. ESPN2 or ESPNU.

### TEENS

Teen Book Club, 4pm, Eugene Public Library. FREE.

## THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 16

### BENEFITS

Habitat for Humanity of Central Lane Fundraiser, 5:30-7:30pm, Ford Alumni Ctr., 1720 E. 13th Ave. \$50.

### GATHERINGS

Retired Senior Providers of Lane County, 2pm, Holiday by Atria Senior Living, 2525 Cal Young Rd. FREE.

### LECTURES/CLASSES

Birds of Oregon and General Science (BOGS.), 5pm, Willamalane Adult Activity Ctr., 215 W. C St., Spfd. FREE.

Panel Discussion: "Dynamic Landscapes & Evolution: 30 Million Years of Change, 6pm, MNCH, 1680 E. 15th Ave. FREE w/ gen. admission.

### LITERARY ARTS

Book Talk: Queer Career: Sexuality and Work in Modern America w/ Margot Canaday, 4:30pm, Knight Law Ctr., rm 110 (UO). FREE.

Literary Mixer, 6-8pm, Wordcrafters, 438 Charnelton St., ste. 102. \$15.

### MUSIC

Eastside Jam meets Westside Jam, rock, 6pm, Jimmy Mac's Overtime Bar & Grill, 770 Bertelsen Rd. N/C.

Mountain Son, singer-songwriter, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Chris Shuttleworth Quartet, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$15.

Eugene Symphony Orchestra: Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, 7:30pm, Hult Ctr. \$10-75.

Mark Hummel's Blues Harmonica Blowout, 7:30pm, The Shedd. \$35-39.

Purest Feeling, indie rock, w/ Bliss Foxx, 8pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$5.

The Big Dirty Allstars: Hip-Hop • Live Jam • Cipher • Ensemble, 9pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive St. N/C.



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Wednesday, February 15 at 6:30 p.m.

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# Outliers and Outlaws

FIRSTHAND ACCOUNTS INSPIRE A NEW EXHIBIT ABOUT EUGENE'S LESBIAN COMMUNITY FROM A GENERATION AGO

By Ester Barkai

Full Moon Rising was an all-lesbian crew of the Hoedads, a Eugene-based tree planting cooperative that began in the 1970s. Hoedads had different crews, and each one had its own theme.

Full Moon Rising's theme was empowerment for women. It contracted with the Bureau of Land Management and other agencies to replant trees in clearcut harvested areas, and everyone got paid the same — no matter how many trees they planted.

Planting was done in winter, but strenuous labor would cause the crew to become overheated, in which case many of the women did what men sometimes do — they took off their shirts while working. This during a time when just sporting a crew cut was seen as unacceptable behavior for women in mainstream culture.

This is one of many tales told in a new exhibit at the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History documenting the beginnings of Eugene as a community friendly to lesbians.

Judith Raiskin wasn't in Eugene in the 1970s. She came in the mid-'90s to work at the University of Oregon, where she is professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Linda Long came to Eugene in the mid-'90s for work, too, and is the UO Libraries curator of manuscripts. They were housemates

once, in Berkeley when Raiskin was a graduate student and Long was a librarian at the university, but they moved to Eugene independently of each other. In Eugene they had long spoken to each other about collecting the stories of women who helped create the town's lesbian community.

It wasn't until they began to attend funerals of women who'd been part of that group that they realized the time to start recording had come. The oral histories they co-created, along with associated materials, are the inspiration for the exhibit *Outliers and Outlaws: Stories from the Eugene Lesbian History Project*, which runs through the end of the year at the museum.

Working with an aging population, they began interviewing women in 2018, often two in one day. The Eugene Lesbian Oral History Project is housed in Special Collections at University Libraries, and can be accessed online through OregonDigital.org.

When Raiskin and Long initially put the call out for the oral history project, 40 years after the time period in which hundreds of women moved to Eugene, they heard from almost 200 people who were still living in town. They've interviewed 83 women so far, all of whom moved to Eugene around the years 1968 to 1992. They haven't tried reaching out to those who left town yet, Raiskin says.

Meeting with her and Long, I ask if they interviewed each other. No, Raiskin smiles, because their arrival in Eugene was just after the cut-off date.

Long says the lesbian migration to town in the 1960s through the '80s was part of a larger counterculture movement that came here, the same one that produced current institutions like Eugene Saturday Market or the Oregon Country Fair. Idealistic young people championing a "back to the land" ideology were attracted to the natural surroundings around town. Real estate was relatively inexpensive then, too.

And, Long says, the county building codes were permissive.

Mother Kali's Bookstore was the hub of the lesbian community in Eugene. A feminist bookstore with two meeting rooms, it was a place to hear a reading, check the bulletin board for news, meet friends after a hard day at work or to discuss trying to live freely in an overall society that didn't yet accept who you were. A social hangout as much as a business, Mother Kali's was in operation for more than 30 years, in three locations, and it's partially recreated for the museum exhibit.

"Every book tells you how to think," Raiskin says.

Raiskin teaches an honors course on using primary sources; she tells her students that first-hand narratives haven't yet been framed by anyone else's thoughts. She and Long were highly motivated to collect these oral histories as well as to make them accessible because they believe, as primary materials, they can be valuable for students and future scholars.

Sally Sheklow (1950-2022), one of the narrators in the oral history project, found different avenues throughout the years — both creative and through social services — to be an advocate for equal rights. She was a member of WYMPROV!, an improv group that was formed to confront anti-gay politics, and she worked with the Willamette

AIDS Council and the Feminist Women's Health Center. She also wrote a column called "Living Out" for *Eugene Weekly* (1999-2017), in which she often humorously discussed her life as an aging, Jewish, activist lesbian.

Originally from Southern California, Sheklow was a UO graduate who worked with Starflower Natural Foods and Botanicals after graduation.

Starflower was a distribution collective, at the forefront of the natural foods trend, that employed mostly lesbian labor, including truckers and warehouse staff.

Collectives and cooperative businesses were part of the counterculture movement. They enabled those with dreams of an egalitarian existence to put their philosophies into action. And lesbian-owned cooperatives were often not typically associated with women's work then — or even now.

"People were just inventing themselves," Linda McIntosh says. "It was like you can be whatever you want. And so it was just this incredibly vibrant, empowering time in this town."

McIntosh, another narrator from the oral history project, worked with Crescent Construction, the first all-women construction company licensed in Oregon.

Oral historians once commonly referred to their subjects as interviewees, but Raiskin and Long call the women they've interviewed "narrators." The distinction may seem subtle, but it reflects the fact that these oral histories were not restricted by a preconceived set of questions or a hypothesis of any kind.

They let women speak for as long as they liked, Raiskin says, to "tell their stories how they wanted."

*Outliers and Outlaws: Stories from the Eugene Lesbian History Project runs through the end of 2023 at the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History. More info at MNCH.UOregon.edu.*

***'People were just inventing themselves. It was like you can be whatever you want. And so it was just this incredibly vibrant, empowering time in this town.'***

— LINDA MCINTOSH



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# Road Tested

POP SINGER-SONGWRITER FREEDY JOHNSTON RETURNS AFTER A SEVEN-YEAR BREAK

By Will Kennedy



Photo by Dina Regine

Musician Freedy Johnston wouldn't recommend his songwriting approach to anyone. With a note of self-deprecating humor, Johnston says in a phone interview, "It's very slow. It's not efficient." However true that may be, a deliberative creative process has worked out pretty well for him so far.

Johnston performs a career-spanning acoustic solo show at WOW Hall Feb. 9 in support of his 2022 release *Back on the Road to You*, his 14th studio record and his first new music since 2015.

Featuring duets with Aimee Mann, Susanna Hoffs and Susan Cowsill, *On the Road* maintains Johnston's streak of

well-crafted and thoughtful guitar-based pop songwriting. He has a Midwestern ear for melody, sunshine-y harmonies and strong storytelling sensibilities. Also featured on the record is guitar work from seasoned guitarist Doug Pettibone, who in the past has worked with Elvis Costello, Steve Earle and Mark Knopfler — all Johnston peers in terms of sound and quality.

Johnston's first album, *Can You Fly*, came out in the early 1990s. With the release of his second record, *This Perfect World* with Nirvana producer Butch Vig, who helped define the sound of alternative rock in the era, Johnston seemed poised to be the flannel-clad power pop next big thing. Accordingly, *This Perfect World* produced perhaps Johnston's best-known song, the Byrds-esque

"Bad Reputation," just in time for the CD-era alternative music boom.

Born in Kansas and raised on Elton John, The Beatles, CCR and classic country, Johnston was too heartland-wholesome for indie rock. Though well deserved, clichés like "songwriter's songwriter" and "critical darling" have followed Johnston throughout his long career. As can sometimes happen with the best songwriters, the music industry never quite knew what to do with him.

More recently, cuts like "Tryin' to Move On" off Johnston's latest could be early Wilco or Uncle Tupelo-style alternative country, while "That's Life," with Susanna Hoffs from The Bangles on backing vocals, could be a George Jones/Tammy Wynette country music ode to the pinnacle of romantic life for a married couple: the trials and travails of putting the kids to bed. Always a man out of time, a mature patina suits Johnston well.

In his younger years, Johnston — now in his sixties — might have assumed an artist had retired with a seven-year gap between records. COVID merely slowed down Johnston's already time-intensive process.

For Johnston, music tends to come first in a groove, emotion or melody. The lyrics, in particular, "are hammered out over a course of way too long," Johnston says. "That's the way I'm trying to serve whatever this song is." No matter what, Johnston adds, the "music will come to me."

Songs off Johnston's latest album, he says, "had been worked up over a period of many years. They finally found their way to the top of the pile."

Though many *Road* songs had been with Johnston for some time, surprisingly, he's already moved on to the next record, he says. A few new songs, still in workshop phase, will be road-tested on Johnston's latest tour.

After all this time, the veteran singer-songwriter still finds premiering new music a necessary though risky proposition. "It's important to throw the song out there," Johnston says.

*Freedy Johnston performs acoustic renditions of music from throughout his catalog Thursday, Feb. 9, at WOW Hall; \$15 advance, \$20 door, all-ages.*

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# FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

**ARIES** (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): During my quest for advice that might be helpful to your love life, I plucked these words of wisdom from author Sam Kean: “Books about relationship talk about how to ‘get’ the love you need, how to ‘keep’ love, and so on. But the right question to ask is, ‘How do I become a more loving human being?’” In other words, Aries, here’s a prime way to enhance your love life: Be less focused on what others can give you and more focused on what you can give to others. Amazingly, that’s likely to bring you all the love you want.

**TAURUS** (APRIL 20-MAY 20): You have the potential to become even more skilled at the arts of kissing and cuddling and boinking than you already are. How? Here are some possibilities. 1. Explore fun experiments that will transcend your reliable old approaches to kissing and cuddling and boinking. 2. Read books to open your mind. I like Margot Anand’s *The New Art of Sexual Ecstasy*. 3. Ask your partner(s) to teach you everything about what turns them on. 4. Invite your subconscious mind to give you dreams at night that involve kissing and cuddling and boinking. 5. Ask your lover(s) to laugh and play and joke as you kiss and cuddle and boink.

**GEMINI** (MAY 21-JUNE 20): You are an Italian wolf searching for food in the Apennine Mountains. You’re a red-crowned crane nesting in a wetland in the Eastern Hokkaido region of Japan. You’re an olive tree thriving in a salt marsh in southern France, and you’re a painted turtle basking in a pool of sunlight on a beach adjoining Lake Michigan. And much, much more. What I’m trying to tell you, Gemini, is that your capacity to empathize is extra strong right now. Your smart heart should be so curious and open that you will naturally feel an instinctual bond with many life forms, including a wide array of interesting humans. If you’re brave, you will allow your mind to expand to experience telepathic powers. You will have an unprecedented knack for connecting with simpatico souls.

**CANCER** (JUNE 21-JULY 22): My Cancerian friend Juma says, “We have two choices at all times: creation or destruction. Love creates and everything else destroys.” Do you agree? She’s not just talking about romantic love, but rather love in all forms, from the urge to help a friend, to the longing to seek justice for the dispossessed, to the compassion we feel for our descendants. During the next three weeks, your assignment is to explore every nuance of love as you experiment with the following hypothesis: *To create the most interesting and creative life for yourself, put love at the heart of everything you do.*

**LEO** (JULY 23-AUG. 22): I hope you get ample chances to enjoy deep soul kisses in the coming weeks. Not just perfunctory lip-to-lip smooches and pecks on the cheeks, but full-on intimate sensual exchanges. Why do I recommend this? How could the planetary positions be interpreted to encourage a specific expression of romantic feeling? I’ll tell you, Leo: The heavenly omens suggest you will benefit from exploring the frontiers of wild affection. You need the extra sweet, intensely personal communion that comes best from the uninhibited mouth-to-mouth form of tender sharing. Here’s what Leo poet Diane di Prima said: “There are as many kinds of kisses as there are people on earth, as there are permutations and combinations of those people. No two people kiss alike — no two people fuck alike — but somehow the kiss is more personal, more individualized than the fuck.”

**VIRGO** (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): Borrowing the words of poet Oriah from her book *The Dance: Moving to the Deep Rhythms of Your Life*, I’ve prepared a love note for you to use as your own this Valentine season. Feel free to give these words to the person whose destiny needs to be woven more closely together with yours. Oriah writes, “Don’t tell me how wonderful things will be someday. Show me you can risk being at peace with the way things are right now. Show me how you follow your deepest desires, spiraling down into the ache within the ache. Take me to the places on the earth that teach you how to dance, the places where you can risk letting the world break your heart.”

**LIBRA** (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): Libran author Walter Lippman wrote, “The emotion of love is not self-sustaining; it endures only when lovers love many things together, and not merely each other.” That’s great advice for you during the coming months. I suggest that you and your allies — not just your romantic partners, but also your close companions — come up with collaborative projects that inspire you to love many things together. Have fun exploring and researching subjects that excite and awaken and enrich both of you.

**SCORPIO** (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Scorpio writer Paul Valéry wrote, “It would be impossible to love anyone or anything one knew completely. Love is directed towards what lies hidden in its object.” My challenge to you, Scorpio, is to test this hypothesis. Do what you can to gain more in-depth knowledge of the people and animals and things you love. Uncover at least some of what’s hidden. All the while, monitor yourself to determine how your research affects your affection and care. Contrary to what Valéry said, I’m guessing this will enhance and exalt your love.

**SAGITTARIUS** (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): In his book *Unapologetically You*, motivational speaker Steve Maraboli writes, “I find the best way to love someone is not to change them, but instead, help them reveal the greatest version of themselves.” That’s always good advice, but I believe it should be your inspirational axiom in the coming weeks. More than ever, you now have the potential to forever transform your approach to relationships. You can shift away from wanting your allies to be different from what they are and make a strong push to love them just as they are.

**CAPRICORN** (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): I analyzed the astrological omens. Then I scoured the internet, browsed through 22 books of love poetry, and summoned memories of my best experiences of intimacy. These exhaustive efforts inspired me to find the words of wisdom that are most important for you to hear right now. They are from poet Rainer Maria Rilke (translated by Stephen Mitchell): “For one human being to love another human being: that is perhaps the most difficult task that has been entrusted to us, the ultimate task, the final test and proof, the work for which all other work is merely preparation.”

**AQUARIUS** (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): To get the most out of upcoming opportunities for intimacy, intensify your attentiveness and reverence for your emotions. Why? As quick and clever as your mind can be, sometimes it neglects to thoroughly check in with your heart. And I want your heart to be wildly available when you get ripe chances to open up and deepen your alliances. Study these words from psychologist Carl Jung: “We should not pretend to understand the world only by the intellect; we apprehend it just as much by feeling. Therefore, the judgment of the intellect is, at best, only the half of truth, and must, if it be honest, also come to an understanding of its inadequacy.”

**PISCES** (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): “In love there are no vacations. Love has to be lived fully with its boredom and all that.” Author and filmmaker Marguerite Duras made that observation, and now I convey it to you — just in time for a phase of your astrological cycle when boredom and apathy could and should evolve into renewed interest and revitalized passion. But there is a caveat: If you want the interest and passion to rise and surge, you will have to face the boredom and apathy; you must accept them as genuine aspects of your relationship; you will have to cultivate an amused tolerance of them. Only then will they burst in full glory into renewed interest and revitalized passion.

Homework: Name one thing you could do to express your love more practically. Newsletter.FreeWillAstrology.com.

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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE** CRESCENT AUTOMOTIVE LLC, an Oregon limited liability company; Plaintiff, V. EDWIN CASTRO; Defendant. Case No.: 23CV01821 SUMMONS TO: Edwin Castro, 2295 Laurelhurst Drive, Eugene, OR 97402 IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON:

You are hereby required to appear and defend the complaint filed against you in the above case within thirty days after the date of service of this summons on you, and if you fail to appear and defend, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY! You must “appear” in this case or the other side will win automatically. To “appear” you must file with the court a legal document called a “motion” or “answer.” The “motion” or “answer” must be given to the court clerk or administrator within 30 days along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the plaintiff’s attorney or, if the plaintiff does not have an attorney, proof of service on the plaintiff. If you have questions, you should see an attorney immediately. If you need help in finding an attorney, you may contact the Oregon State Bar’s Lawyer Referral Service online at [www.oregon-statebar.org](http://www.oregon-statebar.org) or by calling (503)684-3763(in the Portland metropolitan area)or toll-free elsewhere in Oregon at (800)452-7636. HERSHNER HUNTER, LLP. By: /s/ Donald J. Churnside, OSB 791876, Of Attorneys for Plaintiff, 675 Oak Street, Suite 400, P.O. Box 1475, Eugene, Oregon 97440, Telephone: (541)686-8511, Fax: (541)344-2025, Email: [dcurnside@hershnerhunter.com](mailto:dcurnside@hershnerhunter.com)

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE**, In the Matter of the Estate of KENNETH WAYNE WILLIAMS, Deceased, Case No. 23 PB 00563. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned personal representative at Mollie Williams, c/o Adam R. Schulz, Attorney & Counselor at Law, LLC, 2451 Willamette Street, Eugene, Oregon, 97405, within four months after the date of first publication, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the lawyers for the personal representative, Adam R. Schulz, Attorney & Counselor at Law, LLC, 2451 Willamette Street, Eugene, Oregon, 97405. Dated and first published on 02/09/23. /s/ Mollie Williams, Personal Representative

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that John A. Snethen has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative of the Estate of Donald Roy Snethen, deceased, in Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 23PB00239. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present their claims, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below to the personal representative c/o Tami S.P. Beach, 1184 Olive Street, Eugene, OR 97401, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative. Date of first publication: 01/26/23. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: John A. Snethen, 15318 41st Avenue, E, Tacoma, WA 98446. ATTORNEY FOR PERS. REP.: Tami S.P. Beach, 1184 Olive Street, Eugene, OR 97401

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** Claims against the Estate of Deborah Ann Vitello, Deceased, Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 23PB00444, are required to be presented to the Personal Representative, Sharon Vitello at 675 Oak Street, Suite 400, Eugene, OR 97401, within four (4) months from 01/26/23, the date of first publication, or such claims may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected

by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative, or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. HERSHNER HUNTER, LLP, Attorneys

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS ESTATE OF ADAM T. NORTON LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 23PB00719.** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debra M. Reavis has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with written evidence thereof attached, to the personal representative, c/o Mark M. Williams, Attorney at Law, 180 West Sixth Avenue, Junction City, Oregon 97448. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court or the Personal Representative, named above. Dated and first published: 02/09/23. Personal Representative: Debra M. Reavis, c/o Mark M. Williams, OSB#821404, 180 West Sixth Avenue, Junction City, Oregon 97448

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS ESTATE OF DIANE D. THOMPSON LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 22PB10949** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with written evidence thereof attached, to the Personal Representative Cynthia Lou Ratto, c/o Janice L. Mackey, Hutchinson Cox, PO Box 10886, Eugene, Oregon 97440. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the Attorney for the Personal Representative, named above. Dated and first published 01/26/23



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The project is a Non-Construction Contract, subject to HUD 5370C General Conditions for Non-Construction and Section 3. The full RFQ plus all terms, conditions, and specifications for this Project are available online from the date of this Notice until Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at: [www.homesforgood.org/opportunities/contracts-and-vendors/bid-opportunities](http://www.homesforgood.org/opportunities/contracts-and-vendors/bid-opportunities)

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Submission Options	
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Important Dates	
<b>RFQ Release Date</b>	Tuesday January 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2023
<b>Submission Due Date &amp; Time</b>	Thursday, February 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 4 PM
<b>Pre-Bid Session Date &amp; Time</b>	Refer to RFQ packet for site visit info
<b>RFQ Questions Due Date</b>	Thursday February 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 4 PM
<b>Estimated Award Date</b>	Thursday February 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2023
<b>Estimated Start Date</b>	Wednesday March 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023

Homes. People. Partnerships. Good.

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** ESTATE OF JAMES LEROY NORTON LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 23PB00748. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debra M. Reavis has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with written evidence thereof attached, to the personal representative, c/o Mark M. Williams, Attorney at Law, 180 West Sixth Avenue, Junction City, Oregon 97448. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court or the Personal Representative, named above. Dated and first published 02/09/23. Personal Representative: Debra M. Reavis, c/o Mark M. Williams, OSB#821404, 180 West Sixth Avenue, Junction City, Oregon 97448

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** ESTATE OF JIMMY RAY SPEARS, JR. LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 23PB00560. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that RUBY SPEARS has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with written evidence thereof attached, to the personal representative, c/o Mark M. Williams, Attorney at Law, 160 West Sixth Avenue, Junction City, Oregon 97448. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court or the Personal Representative, named above. Dated and first published 02/09/23. Personal Representative: Ruby Spears, c/o Mark M. Williams, OSB#821404, Attorney at Law, 160 West Sixth Avenue, Junction City, Oregon 97448

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** ESTATE OF JOANN MARIE SWICK LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 23PB00964. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rozz Rezabek Wright has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to

present them, with written evidence thereof attached, to the personal representative, c/o Mark M. Williams, Attorney at Law, 180 West Sixth Avenue, Junction City, Oregon 97448. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court or the Personal Representative, named above. Dated and first published 02/09/23. Personal Representative: Rozz Rezabek Wright, c/o Mark M. Williams, OSB#821404, 180 West Sixth Avenue, Junction City, Oregon 97448

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** ESTATE OF JOHN J. WARD. LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 23PB00253. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with written evidence thereof attached, to the Personal Representative Rosemary S. Olsen, c/o Wendy L. Laing, Hutchinson Cox, PO Box 10886, Eugene, Oregon 97440. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the Attorney for the Personal Representative, named above. Dated and first published 01/26/23

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** Notice Is Hereby Given that Patricia Daniels has been appointed and has qualified as the Personal Representative of the Estate of Robert E. Daniels, deceased, Lane County Probate Case No. 23PB00244. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present their claims, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the Personal Representative's attorney at P.O. Box 1268, Eugene, OR 97440 or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this Estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or the attorney for the

Personal Representative. Dated and first published: February 9, 2023. Patricia Daniels, Personal Representative. Alan J. Thayer, Jr., Attorney for Personal Representative, P.O. Box 1268, Eugene, OR 97440

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS PROBATE NO. 23PB00218** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lynna Roxanne Sarasin has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Linda Louine Mainwaring by the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County, and all persons having claims against said estate are required to present them to the Personal Representative in care of the Personal Representative's attorney, Milan Hanson, Attorney at Law, 800 West 8th Street, Medford, Oregon 97501, within four months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by this proceeding are advised that additional information may be obtained from the court records, the Personal Representative, or the undersigned attorney for the Personal Representative. DATED AND FIRST PUBLISHED this 26 day of January, 2023. /s/ Milan Hanson, OSB #131082, Attorney for Personal Representative

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS:** Probate proceedings in the Estate of Mary Ann Beauchamp, Deceased, are now pending in the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County, Case No. 23PB00355, and Mark S. Beauchamp has been appointed Personal Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the Personal Representative, c/o Gleeves Swearingen LLP, Attorneys at Law, 975 Oak Street, Suite 800, Eugene, OR 97401, within 4 months from the date of the first publication of this notice or such claims may be barred. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN to all persons whose rights may be affected by the above-entitled proceedings that additional information may be obtained from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published this 26 day of January, 2023

**WE THE PEOPLE OF LANE COUNTY,** Oregon have reassembled the dejure Republican form of Government. Notice published here <http://national-assembly.net/blog/index.php/na-blog/oregon-general-jural-assembly-public-notice>

# SAVAGE LOVE



BY DAN SAVAGE

*I'm a woman who married young (21) and I've been with my husband for seven years. Within the last year, I've realized that my falling libido probably comes from the fact that I am not turned-on by our boring vanilla sex routine. I get so little fulfillment that I'd rather not even do it. I've tried talking to him, but he says he prefers sex without foreplay or a lot of "complicated stuff." I had some great casual sex before we met but it turns out I'm into BDSM, which I found out when I recently had a short affair. I've kept the secret and guilt to myself, but I have told my husband I'm into BDSM. He wants to make me happy, but I can tell he isn't turned on doing these things. He denies it, because he's just happy to have sex at all, but a butt plug and a slap on the ass does not a Dom make. I've tried to ask him if we can open up our relationship so that I can live out my fantasies. I would like to go to a BDSM club and he isn't interested at all. He was very upset and said he's afraid of losing me if we go. He also felt like I was giving him an ultimatum. But I told him he was allowed to say no, and that I wouldn't leave if he did. When I was younger, I thought there was something wrong with me because everyone else wanted monogamy, but it never seemed important to me. I'm not a jealous person, and I wouldn't mind if he had sex with other people. In fact, the thought of it turns me on, but he says he isn't interested. I know he loves me, and I love him. At this point my only solution has been to suppress this urge to have BDSM sex, but I don't know if it is a good long-term solution. What should I do? Keep my fantasies to myself? Have another affair or ask him to have an open relationship again? We have a 3-year-old daughter, so I have to make our relationship work.*

— Want The Hard Truth

Two quick points before I bring out the big guns: First, marrying young is a bad idea. The younger two people are when they marry, according to a mountain of research, the likelier they are to divorce. It makes intuitive sense: the rational part of the brain — the prefrontal cortex — isn't fully formed until we're 25. We shouldn't be picking out wallpaper in our early twenties, WTHT, much less life partners. And second, basic sexual compatibility (BSC) is crucial to the success of sexually exclusive relationships and it's a bad idea to scramble your DNA together with someone else's before BSC has been established.

And with that out of the way... "WTHT might be surprised to hear she is just a normal woman being a normal woman," says Wednesday Martin, *The New York Times* best-selling author, cultural critic and researcher. "Like a normal human woman, she is bored after seven years of monogamous sex that isn't even her *kind* of sex." You mentioned that you used to feel like there was something wrong with you, WTHT, but just in case you have any lingering "what's wrong with me?!" feelings, you're gonna want to read *Untrue: Why Nearly Everything We Believe About Women, Lust, and Infidelity Is Wrong and How the New Science Can Set Us Free*, Martin's most recent book.

"We know from recent longitudinal studies from Germany, Finland, the U.S., the U.K. and Canada that *among women only*, relationship duration and living together predict lower desire/boredom," Martin says. "In fact, the Finnish study found that even when they had more/better orgasms, women in monogamous relationships of several years' duration reported low desire." A straight man's desire for his long-term, live-in female partner also decreases over time, but not as dramatically as a woman's does.

"Contrary to what we've been taught, monogamy kills it for women, in the aggregate, more than it does for men," says Martin.

So, that's what we know now — that's what the research shows — but most advice professionals, from the lowliest advice columnist to the most exalted daytime talk show host, have chosen to ignore the research or are unaware of it. So, they continue to tell unhappily sexless couples that they're either doing something wrong or that their relationship is broken. If he would just do his fair share of the housework or if she would just have a glass or two of wine — or pop a "female Viagra," if big pharma could come up with one that works, which (spoiler alert) they haven't and most likely never will — they'd be fucking like they did the night they met. This advice not only isn't helpful, it's *harmful*: he does more housework, she drinks more wine, nothing changes, and the couple feels like there's something wrong with them. In reality, nothing's wrong. It's not about a more equitable division of housework (always good!) or drinking more wine (sometimes good but not always) — it's about the desire for novelty, variety and adventure. Those are things a couple can build into their monogamous relationship, WTHT, but they are not if they're only being told that dishes are the problem and/or wine is the solution.

So, the big issue here is that you're bored, WTHT. No foreplay? Nothing complicated? Even if you were 100 percent vanilla, that shit would get tedious after a few years. Or minutes. After risking your marriage to treat your boredom (with an affair), you asked your husband to shake things up — to fight sexual boredom with you — by incorporating BDSM into your sex life, by going to BDSM clubs, and by at least considering the possibility of opening up your marriage. (Ethically this time!) And while he's made a small effort where BDSM is concerned (butt plugs, slapping your ass), your husband ruled out BDSM clubs and openness. But since he's only going through the BDSM motions because he's just "happy to have sex at all," what he is doing isn't working for you.

At bottom, WTHT, what you're saying — to me, not your husband — is that you're gonna need to do BDSM with other people if your husband doesn't get better at it, which is something he might learn to do at those BDSM clubs he refuses to go to. Which means he has it backwards: *he risks losing you if he doesn't go*.

"She once put her marriage at risk to get BDSM," Martin says. "WTHT's husband doesn't need to know about the affair, in my view, and he doesn't need to become the world's best Dom. But he owes her acknowledgment that her desires *matter*. Get to that baseline, and other things tend to fall into place more easily. The discussion about monogamy becomes easier. The discussion about needing to be topped becomes easier. Working out a solution becomes easier."

I'm not suggesting that an open relationship is the solution for every bored couple, and neither is Martin. There are lots of legitimate reasons why two people might prefer for their relationship to be, remain, or become monogamous. But two people who commit to being sexually exclusive for the rest of their lives and also want to maintain a satisfying sex life — and, open or closed, couples with satisfying sex lives are likelier to stay together — need to recognize boredom as their mortal enemy. And while the decision should be mutual, and while ultimatum is a scary word, bringing in reinforcements isn't just the best way to fight boredom in some instances, there are times when it's the only way to save a relationship.

That said, a couple of weeks back I told a frustrated husband that his cuckolding kink may have to be put on the back burner while his children are young. The same goes for you, WTHT. But at the very least your husband has to recognize the validity of your desires and could put more effort into pleasing you.

"In straight culture, people tend to define sex as intercourse, because intercourse is what gets men off, and we *still* privilege male pleasure," Martin says. "But seen through a lens of parity, what WTHT wants is not 'foreplay' or 'complicated stuff.' It's sex, and the sooner her husband lets go of this intercourse = sex fetish of his and acknowledges that her pleasure matters as much as his does, the sooner he'll be a real partner to his wife."

For the record: a relationship doesn't have to be open to be exciting, BDSM doesn't have to be complicated to be satisfying, and date night doesn't have to mean dinner and a movie. Date night can mean a visit to a BDSM club where your husband can learn, through observation alone (at least for now), how to be a better Dom for you.

You can find Wednesday Martin on Twitter @WednesdayMartin. You can find her books, blog posts, videos, and more at [wednesdaymartin.com](http://wednesdaymartin.com).

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